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A new species of *Phlebia* (*Basidiomycetes*) from India

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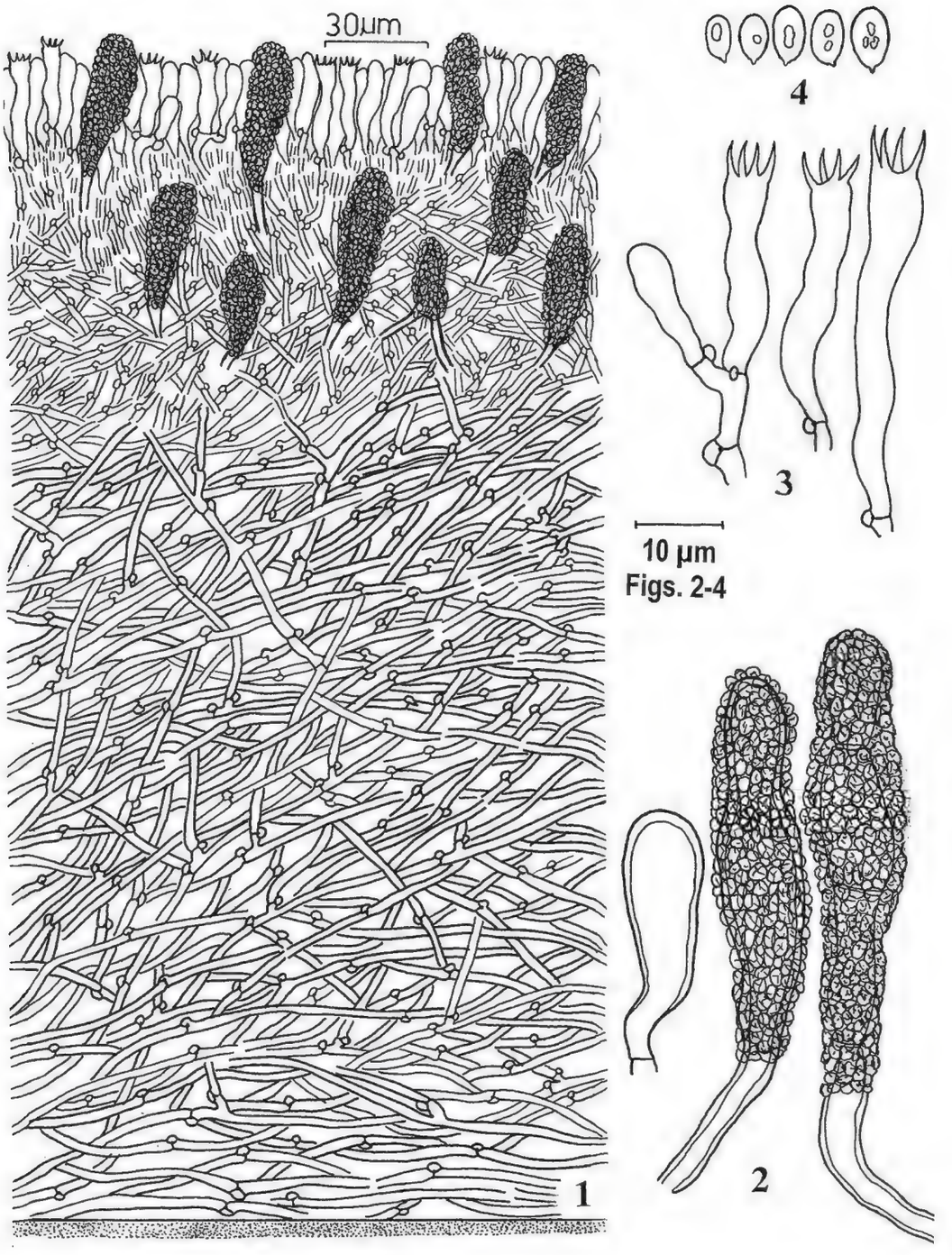
Abstract – A new corticioid species *Phlebia crassisubiculata* is described from Dalhousie hills (District Chamba) in Himachal Pradesh, India.

Key words – Banikhet, thick subiculum, large spores

During a mycological excursion in Dalhousie hills (Himachal Pradesh, India), Dhingra and Singla made a collection on the underside of a decaying gymnospermous stump. After detailed comparison of macroscopic and microscopic features with relevant literature (Dhingra 2005, Eriksson et al. 1981, Larsson & Hjortstam 1977, Parmasto 1968, Rattan 1977), it was found to be close to *Phlebia cremeoalutacea* (Parmasto) K.H. Larss. & Hjortstam. Characters in common were thick-walled encrusted cystidia and subclavate to clavate basidia. However, the subiculum in the newly described species was distinctly the thick compared with the thin subiculum in *Phlebia cremeoalutacea* and basidiospores were larger (5.1–6.8 × 2.8–4.5 µm) than those in the latter species (3.0–4.5 × 2.0–2.5 µm). A sample of the basidiocarp was sent to Prof. Nils Hallenberg, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, who supported the concept of a new species.

Phlebia crassisubiculata Avneet P. Singh, Priyanka, Dhingra & Singla, **sp. nov.**
MycoBank 515886 Figs 1–5

Basidiocarpum resupinatum, adnatum, effusum, ad 350 µm crassum; hymenium superficie laevigatum vel subtiliter pubescens, cremeum flavum, infuscatum in 3% KOH; systema hyphale monomiticum; hyphae ad 4 µm latae, ramosae, nodoso-septatae, tenuitunicatae vel paulo crassitunicatae; subiculum crassum, cum hyphis horizontalis; subhymenium augustum, de hyphis verticalis; cystidia 23–80 × 6.8–10.2 µm, subcylindrica vel subfusiformia, encrustata; basidia 23–40.3 × 5.1–6.2 µm, subclavata vel clavata, 4-



Figs 1–4. Microscopic structures from basidiocarp of *Phlebia crassisubiculata*. 1. Section of basidiocarp; 2. cystidia; 3. basidia; 4. basidiospores.

sterigmata, ad basin fibuligera; basidisporae 5.1–6.8 × 2.8–4.5 µm, ellipsoidae, laeves, tenuitunicatae, multiguttatae.

Type: India, Himachal Pradesh: Chamba, 2 km from Dalhousie in direction to Banikhet, on decayed gymnosperm wood, Nishi 1405 (PUN, **holotype**), September 19, 1989.

Etymology: Conspicuously thick subiculum.

Fig. 5. *Phlebia crassisubiculata* basidiocarp.

Basidiocarps resupinate, arising as small colonies which may coalesce later on and become effused, adnate, up to 350 μm thick in section; hymenial surface smooth to finely pubescent under lens due to projecting cystidia, creamy yellow, darkening in 3% KOH; margins abrupt or indeterminately thinning, paler concolorous. Hyphal system monomitic; generative hyphae up to 4 μm wide, branched, septate, clamped, thin- to somewhat thick-walled; subicular zone very thick, of well developed horizontal hyphae running parallel to the substrate, followed by a narrow subhymenial zone of densely packed, vertical hyphae. Cystidia 23–80 × 6.8–10.2 μm, subcylindrical to subfusiform, encrusted with encrustation dissolving in 10% KOH, thick-walled, enclosed to somewhat projecting, pseudo-septa may be present. Basidia 23–40.3 × 5.1–6.2 μm, subclavate to clavate, thin- to somewhat thick-walled, 4-sterigmate, with a basal clamp; sterigmata up to 5.1 μm long. Basidiospores 5.1–6.8 × 2.8–4.5 μm, ellipsoid, smooth, thin-walled, inamyloid, acyanophilous, with oil droplets.

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